

January 13, 1976

rob all this money from people and dwindle their assets down even to \$2000. So I would suggest that we reject Senator Dickinson's suggestion. If \$5000 is too high, I have an amendment that would make it \$4000. I think in going below that all we are going to do is keep people in poverty.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson, do you care to close debate on your amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR DICKINSON: There hasn't been much debate, sir. Thank you. All well, Senator Fowler's closing statement referred to robbing these people. I think that is kind of a misnomer on his part. Maybe he would like to change it if he had the opportunity. Certainly you can't accuse the state of robbing people in asking to pay their board and room. He continually refers to children and maybe I am misunderstanding this. Maybe they are not children when they are turned back into society but children don't need to rent apartments or buy automobiles and this sort of thing that Senator Fowler has referred to in two successive discussions on this. And again, I refer to Senator Kennedy, the Committee Chairman, on the information that he has brought forth that this is...well, I would refer to the State Health Department when they come in and asked for \$1500 which was doubled. Normally, we would be inclined to pare down what they asked for instead of triple what they have asked for. So it seems \$2000 would be adequate.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of Senator Dickinson amendment to the Committee amendment. Record your vote. Please vote. A simple majority. Have all of you voted? Record.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 13 nays.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I would now ask for the Committee amendment as amended to be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion? Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator Kennedy, will this still eliminate, the mention was made that they would be eliminated from provisions of, what is it, Title 9 health coverage if their assets are in excess of a certain amount. Is this \$2000 in excess? Was the \$1500 the top figure that welfare said would make him eligible for or is it \$2000 or \$2500? I know the \$5000 took them out and I don't know what the level is.

SENATOR KENNEDY: They would have been eligible at \$1500 but I think they are at \$2000 and I cannot answer that truthfully.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the amended Committee amendments. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record. There was a malfunction, either of the machinery or the operator. Would you please vote again on this matter? Please vote. Record.